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Livestock & Seed Programs
USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
Stop 0249, Room 2092
Washington, DC 20250-0249

Dear Sir:

Regarding the Farm Bill requirement on approved food safety technologies for use in commodity purchase programs, **DO NOT ALLOW IRRADIATED FOOD TO BE SERVED IN THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM.** My opposition is based on the following:

- The Farm Bill allows American children to be 'guinea pigs' for irradiated food. Irradiated food has not been proven safe to eat.
- There is even less research into the long-term health effects experienced by children who are exposed to toxic chemicals in foods.
- Studies funded by the European Union confirm that irradiation of foods containing fat, such as beef, chicken, eggs and fruit, has created chemicals called 2-ACBs which can cause DNA damage in human cells and have been shown to promote tumor development in the colons of rat.
- Irradiation merely masks the problems of meat processing that result in contaminated meat. It is a mistake to accept food irradiation as the true solution to our food contamination problem.
- There are proposed regulations that would strengthen inspection and testing in the meat industry that have been languishing for months in the USDA. However, the agency has opposed legislation that would strengthen the current inspection program.

Furthermore, current regulations do not require children, teachers, or parents to be informed that the school meals have been prepared with irradiated foods. We demand the right-to-know what is being served in the nutrition programs offered in school. Using children as unwitting experimental subjects or to create a market for a technology that consumers don't want is reprehensible. Our school children's safety must come before corporate profits.

I urge you to stop the process of implementing this change in USDA policy.

Sincerely,



Adriano Marinelli